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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

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To All Our Readers  
A  
Prosperous New Year

## THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT LUCERNE.

The railway catastrophe which occurred at Lucerne on the 13th inst., and in which 9 persons were killed, has been the subject of a question asked in the Swiss Parliament. The representative of the railway workers pointed out to the Minister in charge of the department of the post office and railways that both the locomotives were operated by one single man, and that at present this system is in use on 40 to 45 per cent. of the electric trains. The department in question was urged to enquire once more carefully into the question of one man operation, and the objections which the staff have raised to this dangerous measure of rationalisation.

## ROMAN MOSAIC IN SWITZERLAND.

Some workmen engaged in digging under a house at Nyon, on the Lake of Geneva, uncovered a Roman mosaic pavement, probably of the second century A.D., measuring 30ft. in length and 12ft. in width.

The pavement has a wide ornamental border in Black and white tiles designed in Greek style with scrolls and Swastika. Within the border is a representation of a whale, a shark turning on its back in the act of catching a fish, several lobsters, numerous shells, and also a creature looking like a plesiosaurus. In the centre there are two Cupids with rosy wings and multicoloured eyes which appear to follow the onlooker as he moves.

The work is well preserved, and the colours are still brilliant. No other mosaic of a similar size and beauty has so far been found in Switzerland. It is to be removed to the local museum, unless the National Museum in Zurich decides to purchase it.

## COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND.

The National Council discussed for two days the Geneva riots of November 9th. A resolution was moved urging the Government to prepare at once a new penal law for the prevention of revolutionary propaganda and "The protection of Swiss democratic institutions against violence."

In the course of the discussion M. Minger, Federal Councillor for the Military Department, stated that foreign agents were co-operating with Swiss Communists and taking part in Communist meetings in Switzerland. He added that a Lausanne Communist was known to have handed over to the central Communist bureau in Berlin documents concerning France, and that two Geneva Socialist leaders who were involved in the recent disturbances were on friendly terms with Soviet delegates to international conferences at Geneva.

The Council rejected by a big majority a Socialist proposal that the members of the Geneva Cantonal Government and the military officers concerned in the firing on the crowd should be legally arraigned.

## LOCAL.

### ZURICH.

The community of Neftenbach has received an amount of 20,000f. from a donor, who wishes to be unknown. The interest on the capital is to be used for aiding the poor of the community.

\* \* \*

The town Council of Zurich has honoured the historian Prof. Dr. H. Schneider, by presenting him with an amount of 2,000f. for his books on "Geschichte des Schweizerischen Bundesstaates."

\* \* \*

The late M. A. Bachofen-Roth in Zurich has left a legacy amounting to 75,000f. to be distributed amongst various charitable institutions.

## FRIBOURG.

M. Perrier, formerly a member of the cantonal government, who some time ago entered the Benedict cloister at Pierre-qui-Vive, has taken the name of Brother Nicholas, in honour of the Protector of the Canton and City of Fribourg, and in memory of a great political peace-maker, whose cause the new monk has done much to forward — Nicholas von de Flüh.

## BERNE.

M. Jacob Kunz, Professor of Theology at the University of Berne, has died.

## SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. Albert Biedermann, a former "Bürgerrats Präsident," has died at the age of 78.

## GRISONS.

In a ski-jumping contest over the Olympia Leap at St. Moritz, Cesare Chiogna, a Swiss

Olympic ski-jumper, won the Morven Cup with a total of 327.80 points. Chiogna, whose longest jump was 70 metres, also won a cup presented by Mrs. Alex Keiller. Second to Chiogna was Marcel Raymond, of Ste. Croix, with 324.10 points, and S. Guttormsen, of Norway, was third with 316.60 points. Guy Nixon, the former Cambridge captain, jumped 50 metres.

## THOUGHTS AND WISHES.

The year 1932, with its tribulations, disappointments and often bitter experiences, is about to pass into oblivion, and few will be the tears shed over its passing away. It has left the world little better if not worse off than at its commencement, and a tired world is still longing and waiting for that betterment, which has been so often promised and yet seems so slow to arrive.

There are people who have almost given up hope, and have predicted that the seven lean years will be doubled if not trebled. Although there is little cause to be optimistic, whilst there is so much unrest, misunderstanding and illfeeling amongst the various countries; yet it would be a sad outlook indeed if not one glimmer of hope was left in our hearts, that things must ultimately take a turn for the better. Does it not largely depend on each member of the community to hasten along, the turning of the tide? We all, each of us, some in a smaller, some in a larger degree can help to make our earthly abode a fitter and better place; by trying to foster that spirit of goodwill towards mankind. Let us start at home, or amongst our countrymen here and in our homeland, let us make an effort to understand each other more, to forgive and forget some of the things which have vexed or annoyed us in the past, to live more up to the maxim that "to err is human, but to forgive devine."

It behoves the Editor of the *Swiss Observer* to pass a parting glance at the outgoing year, it would be superfluous to state, that the universal crisis had no effect on our venture, the truth is, that we have suffered like everyone else, and if we have not广播ed our distress, we have done it, in order not to add to the worries of those who have given us their support in such a generous way, we believe in trying to fight our own battle, without squealing and appealing, whenever a dark cloud appears on the horizon. One of the biggest disappointments for the Editor was the small almost insignificant response to the appeal for new subscribers in our special 12th Anniversary number. Our faithful and untiring collaborator *Kyburg* has taken up his pen to appeal to our compatriots throughout the British Isles, he has done it in a way, which will endear him for ever to all those, who have our little paper at heart, unfortunately the success of his labour has been so small, that we have not yet found the heart to acquaint him of the great disillusionment we have experienced.

It may be that we missed *le moment psychologique*, and that our prospective new subscribers were awaiting a more convenient moment to give us their support, which is so badly needed. It would be indeed a splendid New Year's resolution to become a reader, and therefore supporter of the *Swiss Observer*. If each one of our present subscribers would make it a duty to induce *only one friend of theirs* to become a regular subscriber, *all our troubles and anxieties would be at an end*, and we could then go to work with a joyful heart, to improve and enlarge the *Swiss Observer*.

This seems to us not an impossible task, and we make an earnest appeal to our patrons to try

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY Ltd.

*The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our*

## Fancy Dress Ball

will take place on

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**MIDLAND GRAND HOTEL, St. Pancras Stn., N.W.**

from 7 to 1 a.m.

TICKETS at 7/6 (incl. Supper during the interval) may be obtained at Swiss House, 34/36, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel. : Museum 7000) and from Employment Dept., 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. : City 7719).